United Nations S/2008/605

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 September 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 16 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to reiterate the stance of my country in regard to the "Report of the United Nations fact-finding mission on the Djibouti-Eritrea crisis".

The vexing schemes of the United States Administration to embroil our region in an endless crisis only in order to control the region by "managing these crises" has become too well known these days to merit elaborate explanation. Nonetheless, Washington continues to doggedly pursue this policy and instigate various conflicts in our region under varying labels and pretexts.

What is sad in this state of affairs is the ability of the United States Administration to leverage its influence to instrumentalize the United Nations and its agencies to exacerbate the conflicts that it foments in the first place.

We can cite numerous contemporary events that illustrate this trend, among which is, of course, the "conflict" that it has instigated between "Djibouti and Eritrea".

The manual — albeit misguided — is rather simplistic in form. "First you incite a conflict. This is publicized and exaggerated beyond proportion in order to warrant or justify the intervention of international and regional organizations. The crisis is subsequently compounded and prolonged by dispatching 'envoys', 'mediators' and 'investigators'. The endless diplomatic wrangling will of course exact a price in the suffering of the local populations. But the United States would nonetheless reap the profits of this 'management by crisis'."

This fashionable trend has not been employed in our region alone but, as current events corroborate, also elsewhere in the world.

Victimized as it has been by such repetitive plots, Eritrea was not deceived when the Djibouti "card" was initially floated to serve the very purposes outlined above. And through patience and restraint, Eritrea was able to forestall and contain the transparent ploy. When, as predicted, we were later informed that a United Nations "fact-finding mission" was activated, we clearly stated our position. Indeed, we could not be expected to be party to a futile exercise where the outcome was determined a priori.

08-50770 (E) 170908

As it has happened, what is being recklessly set in motion in the name of the United Nations "fact-finding mission" is the revival of the "crisis" that was frustrated and contained at its inception. This is indeed glaringly obvious.

As we have underlined from the outset, the original ploy had no validity on account of its origins, form and substance. It has been repackaged now in the form of the report of a United Nations fact-finding mission. But it remains unacceptable and deplorable. Responsibility for its consequences will be borne by those who have instigated it in the first place.

I would be most grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative